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C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 000075

SIPDIS

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TAGS: PREL PGOV IZ JO

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSION FOR IRAQ ELECTIONS

REF: SECSTATE 274965

Classified By: CDA David Hale for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶11. (C) Poloff on December 30 discussed reftel demarche with Walid Obeidat, responsible for the Iraq portfolio in Foreign Minister Mulki's private office. Obeidat expressed appreciation for the background on the International Mission for Iraq Elections (IMIE). Although the GOJ has not taken an official position on the matter, he expected that Jordan would not send monitors to observe the elections in Iraq. Citing "sensitivities" about Jordanians' participation (presumably a reference to the concern that neighboring countries, including Jordan, would not be perceived by Iraqis as "independent" monitors), he expected Jordan to focus on logistical support for the effort. He said he has inquired with colleagues in other ministries about the matter and promised to get back to us when he had more information about Jordan's precise plans regarding the IMIE.

¶12. (C) Separately, Poloff contacted Canadian DCM Mark Glauser about preparations underway to support election monitoring activities from Jordan. He confirmed that the Canadians have been in contact with the GOJ and UN representatives about facilitating IMIE support activities in Amman. Glauser said they had not received the formal "green light" from the Jordanian Prime Minister, but expected it soon. He hoped to have more information after a meeting with GOJ officials later this week. In anticipation of a positive response, he said the Canadian Embassy is working on logistical requirements as conveyed from Ottawa, including securing office space. Once they have official GOJ approval, Glauser expected things to fall into place very quickly, and promised to keep us apprised of developments.

¶13. (U) Baghdad minimize considered.

HALE